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## Dominican Civil War

What apparently began as a popular spontaneous uprising in the Dominican Republic suddenly has degenerated into a bloody, full-scale civil war.

Forces supporting ex-President Juan Bosch have lost control of the uprising. On Thursday a former official of Bosch's party went on the military-controlled radio and disavowed responsibility for the growing fighting, saying the rebels no longer had the party's support. The revolt now is in the hands of a relatively small number of well-armed Communists and pro-Communists.

Despite Washington insistence that U.S. Marines and paratroopers were sent to the Dominican Republic solely to protect U.S. lives and property, there is evidence that the official explanation is only partially correct.

Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said that the landing of U.S. troops was aimed at preventing a takeover by Communist forces directed by Fidel Castro. Sen. Henry M. Jackson of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, after a briefing by Defense Secretary McNamara, also said that the troops were sent because of agitation by "definite Communists of Castro origin." And two members of Congress who were briefed by President Johnson a few nights ago said they were told by CIA Director William F. Raborn that fear of a Com-

munist takeover was behind the assignment of Marines to that Caribbean nation.

Reports reaching Washington tell of people being lined up against walls and buildings in Santo Domingo and shot to the cries of "pardon" (meaning: "to the wall"), a maneuver which will be immediately familiar to those acquainted with Communist techniques. Other reports tell of armed bands and terrorists looting and sacking homes in the residential areas of Santo Domingo.

It is misleading to interpret the Dominican revolt simply as one between Communists and non-Communists. Like most civil wars, this cuts across doctrinal and class lines. But there can be no minimizing the extent of Communist participation among the rebels.

Thus U.S. foreign policy is on the spot. It cannot afford the emergence of another Castro-like government on its hemispheric doorstep, yet that is a likely possibility should the rebels defeat the loyalist troops. Nor can it afford to side with the pro-government forces, who in the eyes of many non-Communist Dominicans are opponents of democratic government.

President Johnson acted properly when he sent troops to protect U.S. lives and property. And the U.S. has a right to oppose a Communist government in the Dominican Republic. But unless the battle lines suddenly become more sharply drawn than at present, there is little more Washington can do except watch and wait.